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August 10, 2016

It has come to my attention that the California Air Resources Board Environmental Justice Committee Advisory Board is hosting a series of hearings in order to gather input from the "community" and include suggestions into their recommendations for the draft scoping plan that will be presented to the Air Resources Board (ARB) this fall. It has also come to my attention that only a small portion of participants who attend these meetings are actually residents from the affected environmental justice communities and that a large number of participants are in fact ARB staff, advocacy groups and representatives of other state agencies.

Furthermore, I understand that ARB staff is only recording suggestions and messaging that fits and drives their current agenda. ARB staff has been suspicious of and rude to anyone that they suspect may be there on behalf of affected industries and businesses. Businesses also make up an important part of the communities in which they operate, and their input should be considered in order to reflect a balanced approach to ensuring environmental integrity and economic vitality.

I am also concerned that ARB staff is basing their recommendations, which will affect millions of California residents, consumers and businesses on the suggestions of only a handful of people. This process is disingenuous and needs to be corrected in order to become more inclusive of all stakeholders and to ensure that the ARB board is truly hearing the voice of the people.

Sincerely,

CITY OF DOWNEY

Luis H. Marquez
Council Member

Future Unlimited